



# RESOURCE BOOK 2007



# Superior Court of California, County of San Diego



On behalf of the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego, I welcome you to this second annual edition of our court's Resource Book. The purpose of this Resource Book is to bring the San Diego Superior Court to you. We will tell you who we are, what we have been doing in 2006, and what we can do for you.

My hope is that this document will provide you with a better understanding of the diversity of programs operated by our court.

Many people are surprised to learn that San Diego is the second largest trial court system in the state and third largest in the nation, with over 1,600 employees and 154 judges and commissioners serving a population of three million. With more than six hundred thousand civil and criminal case annual filings and nearly two hundred thousand jurors serving the court each year, a very large segment of our region's population is touched by San Diego's judicial system. In addition, our court provides educational tour programs for thousands of elementary school through community college students and nearly a thousand volunteers provide support to our court.

In 2005, the state Judicial Council conducted a survey to gauge the public's attitude towards California's court system. The results were interesting. While most held positive feelings about the court, two strong opinions were expressed: the public emphasized the importance of an independent court, and also called for a system of justice that is more understandable and accessible. Our California Supreme Court Chief Justice, Ronald M. George, has made increasing the public's trust and confidence in the judicial system a priority, and as Presiding Judge it is mine as well.

I encourage you to visit your local courthouse, ask questions, and share this information with family, business associates, and friends. We hope that if or when you have need to pass through our doors, you will possess a clearer understanding of our court system and know we continually strive to serve the public in a fair, accessible and even-handed manner.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janis Sammartino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Janis" being more prominent.

Honorable Janis Sammartino  
Presiding Judge 2007

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Mission Statement: The Superior Court of California, County of San Diego will provide for the fair and timely administration of justice in all cases before it, in a manner that is accessible and understandable to litigants and the public, and in such a manner that promotes public confidence, pursuant to applicable state and federal law.



The Superior Court in San Diego County is part of the California trial court system, which is the largest of its kind in the world with 58 trial courts throughout the state (one in each county).



### CALIFORNIA'S FOUR LARGEST COURTS

- Los Angeles County
- San Diego County
- Orange County
- Santa Clara County

Each trial court in California is managed by a Presiding Judge. In San Diego, the Presiding Judge receives policy advice from an Executive Committee of Judges. Elected by fellow judges, the Presiding Judge serves a two-year term. Day-to-day oversight and administrative management are provided by the Court Executive Officer. The State Court System is governed by a 27-member Judicial Council led by the State's Supreme Court Chief Justice. The Judicial Council is the policy-making body of the California Courts and is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial and accessible administration of justice. The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is the support staff of the Judicial Council.



## WHAT DOES THE SUPERIOR COURT DO?

All Superior Courts in California have authority over a wide variety of case types such as:

**Civil Cases** - Includes both limited cases (\$25,000 or less) and unlimited cases (over \$25,000). May involve cases in which a person, group of persons or other legal entity brings an action to recover money or property, to enforce a contract, or to protect someone's civil rights.

**Criminal Cases** - Both felony and misdemeanor crimes (including such offenses as driving under the influence cases). In criminal cases, if the defendant cannot afford an attorney, the court may appoint one.

**Family Law Cases** - Includes dissolution (also known as divorce), legal separation of spouses, marriage annulments, child custody, spousal support, and domestic violence restraining orders.

**Family Support Cases** - Child support and related cases in which the County Department of Child Support Services files an action.

**Juvenile Court Cases** - Cases involving juvenile dependency (abuse or neglect of a child), adoption or juvenile delinquency (minors accused of breaking the law).

**Landlord/Tenant Dispute Cases** - Civil cases where a landlord attempts to evict a tenant (also known as unlawful detainers).

**Mental Health Cases** - Countywide responsibility for cases requiring psychiatric evaluations, investigations, hearings and bench trials.

**Non-Traffic Infraction Cases** - Cases involving violation of various city municipal codes such as pedestrian violations, smoking in a prohibited area, bicycling on the sidewalk, and sleeping on a park bench.

**Probate Cases** - Includes, but is not limited to, decedents' estates, trust proceedings, guardianship proceedings (appointment of someone to care for a person under the age of 18), and conservatorship proceedings (appointment of someone to care for an adult unable to care for himself or herself).

**Small Claims Cases** - A civil case for monetary judgment of \$7,500 or less (effective January 2006).

**Traffic Cases** - All traffic infractions such as speeding tickets and red-light camera tickets.

**NORTH  
COUNTY  
DIVISION**

**EAST  
COUNTY  
DIVISION**

**CENTRAL  
DIVISION**

**SOUTH  
COUNTY  
DIVISION**



A map of San Diego County, California, serves as the background for the page. It shows major highways in red, including Interstate 5, Interstate 805, and Interstate 15. County roads are shown in orange. Geographic features like San Diego Bay, San Marcos Reservoir, and various canyons (e.g., Harbison Canyon, Escondido Canyon) are labeled in blue. The map is partially obscured by white text boxes containing information about the court system.

## **AREA SERVED**

- 4,261 Square Miles

## **POPULATION SERVED**

- More than 3.08 million people

## **COURT FACILITIES**

- 10 Court Facilities

## **SUPPORT STAFF**

- 1,523 Employees (as of 01-01-07)

Support Staff includes:

Accounting, Administrative, Budget, Business Office, Courtroom, Court Reporters, Evaluation and Planning, Facilities, Family Court Counselors, Family Law Facilitators and Mediators, Human Resources, Interpreters, Information Technology, Judicial Secretaries, Personnel, Staff Attorneys, and Substance Abuse Assessors.

## **JUDICIAL OFFICERS**

- 128 Judges
- 26 Commissioners

### **JUDGE**

A judge is either elected to the court or appointed by the Governor. A judge has the authority to decide cases brought before the court.

### **COMMISSIONER**

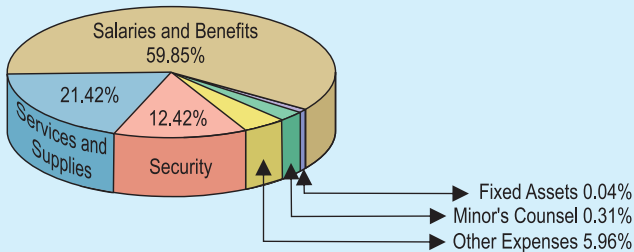
A commissioner is selected by the judges of the court and is given powers to hear and make decisions concerning certain legal matters.

### **WHAT IS A JUDGE PRO TEMPORE OR PRO TEM?**

Pro Tempore is a Latin phrase which means “temporary.” It is often shortened to “pro tem.” A Judge Pro Tem is an attorney who has been approved by the court to substitute for a judge. In the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego, judges pro tempore and commissioners may hear certain criminal, juvenile and family court matters, as well as traffic, child support, small claims, and unlawful detainer cases.



The goal of the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego, is to provide the highest level of service within budgeted appropriations.



	Fiscal Year 06-07 Budget	Percentage of Total
Salaries and Benefits	\$145,452,701	59.85%
Services and Supplies	\$52,062,373	21.42%
Security	\$30,182,055	12.42%
Fixed Assets	\$ 100,000	0.04%
Minor's Counsel	\$ 748,000	0.31%
Other Expenses	\$14,479,534	5.96%
	\$243,024,663	100.00%

Filled Positions*	1,523
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\* As of 01/01/07

EXPENDITURE DESCRIPTIONS

**Salaries and Benefits** - Salaries and benefits of all court employees except for judges, whose salaries are paid directly by the state.

**Services and Supplies** - Costs of office furniture, supplies, telecommunications and contractual services such as information technology and printing services.

**Security** - Cost for court security provided by San Diego County Sheriff's Department and private security firms.

**Fixed Assets** - Purchase of equipment costing more than \$5,000 (e.g., furniture, copy machines).

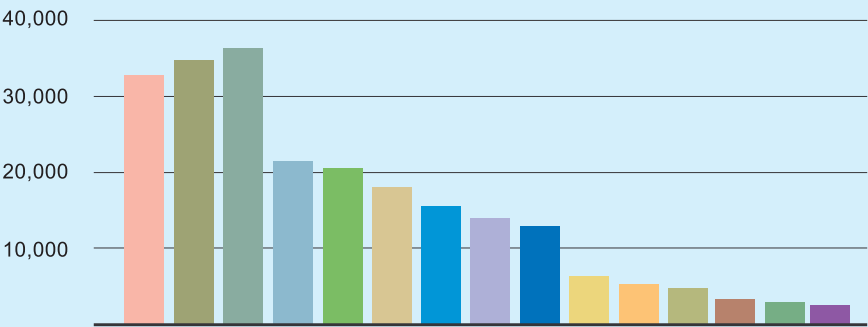
**Minor's Counsel** - The costs to appoint private counsel to represent the interests of the child in a custody or visitation proceeding. For dependency matters, the court-appointed counsel program is now managed and budgeted through the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC).

**Other Expenses** - Includes payment of County services (e.g., custodial costs), collection costs and traffic school monitoring costs.

Hundreds of thousands of Superior Court cases are handled each year in San Diego County. From July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006 (Fiscal Year 05/06) total filings for all case types were almost 633,880.

Fiscal Year 05/06

Infractions Traffic	399,406 *
Misdemeanor Traffic	32,617
Infractions Non-Traffic	34,335
Misdemeanor Non-Traffic	35,578
Small Claims	20,989
Limited General Civil	20,200
Limited Felony	18,774
Unlimited Civil	17,124
Family Law	14,700
<i>Includes dissolutions (also known as divorce), legal separations, and marriage annulments.</i>	
Unlawful Detainers	13,001
Domestic Violence Temp Restraining Orders	6,600
<i>Domestic Violence Temporary Restraining Orders (TRO) filed in Family Court.</i>	
Family Support	6,281
Juvenile Delinquency	5,533
Probate and Guardianship	3,900
Other Family	2,454
<i>Includes Elder/Dependent Abuse, Paternity, Child Support, Child Custody &amp; other miscellaneous Family Court petitions.</i>	
Juvenile Dependency	2,362
TOTAL FILING	633,854



\*This bar chart does not depict traffic infractions of 399,406. Traffic infractions make up the highest percentage, accounting for over 60% of all filings.

## YOU AND THE COURT

Thousands of San Diegans pass through the courthouse doors everyday. Some are here as jurors, others are seeking court services. The Superior Court of California, County of San Diego works hard to help everyone better understand and more effectively use our Court System.

## JURY DUTY

When you receive a summons to serve as a juror in the Superior Court, you are being asked to play a crucial role in the administration of justice. The duties of a juror are as important as the duties of a judge. Jurors determine the credibility of witnesses and are the ultimate finders of the facts.



The Superior Court's Jury Services Office touches the lives of more people than any other division of the court and understands the commitment jury service entails for all who serve. Sometimes the only contact citizens have with the Superior Court is through jury duty and that is why Jury Services is sometimes referred to as the "Court's Goodwill Ambassador."

## DID YOU KNOW?

Some of the services provided by the court to ensure a smooth juror experience include:

**7/24 Access** - The Court's Jury Services office maintains a telephone line (up to 48 incoming lines) to assist jurors with questions regarding jury service. A computerized system assists jurors seven days a week, 24 hours a day. A court staff member is available from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Monday through Friday).



**Two-Week Rule** - To make jury service more flexible, one can report up to two weeks (Monday through Thursday) before or up to two weeks (Monday through Thursday) after the date posted on the jury service summons (this rule does not apply to South County Division due to Group Management) (see next page).

**One Day/One Trial** - Under California law, once a juror has appeared or has served through group management, the juror does not have to serve again for a period of 12 months.

**Free Transportation** - The Superior Court, in partnership with SANDAG, offers complimentary bus/trolley or coaster passes on the first day of jury service as a way to introduce jurors to public transit. The jury summons has a section on the form where jurors can waive their mileage and receive bus/trolley or coaster tickets for the remainder of their jury service.





**Court Transfer** - One can request transfer of jury service to a more convenient location. For example, if you live in the North County but receive notice to report to the downtown courthouse, you can request that your jury service be transferred to North County.

**GROUP MANAGEMENT**

Group management is a system where jurors call in to the court each evening for a week and only come in when the jury administrator is certain there are cases to which the jurors will be sent. The Central and South County Court Divisions utilize group management for juries.

**JURY FAST FACTS**

**NUMBER OF JURORS WHO COMPLETED JURY SERVICE IN 2005: 179,865**

**PERCENTAGE OF JURORS WHO COMPLETED JURY SERVICE IN ONE DAY: 80 %**

**WHAT A JUROR IS PAID AFTER FIRST DAY OF SERVICE**

\$15.00 a day plus \$.34 per mile one way (as of 01/01/07)

**WHERE THE COURT GETS NAMES FOR THE JURY SUMMONS LISTS**

Department of Motor Vehicles records and Registrar of Voters records

**TO QUALIFY FOR JURY DUTY A PERSON MUST:**

- Be a U.S. Citizen
- Be at least 18 years of age
- Currently live in the County of San Diego
- Never have been convicted of a felony
- Never have been convicted of malfeasance in office
- Have sufficient knowledge of the English language
- Not be serving elsewhere as a Trial Juror or Grand Juror
- Not be the subject of a conservatorship



## UNDERSTANDING THE COURT SYSTEM

### EQUAL ACCESS AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

A cornerstone of the Superior Court's mission is to provide justice in a manner that is accessible and understandable to litigants and the public. The court has created a number of programs and tools to help you better understand how the court system works to enhance your working relationship with your attorney or to assist you when representing yourself in court.

### SELF-HELP CLINICS

**Family Domestic Violence Restraining Order Clinics** - These clinics use volunteer attorneys and community-based organizations to assist victims of domestic violence with the completion of Applications for Domestic Violence Temporary Restraining Orders (TRO).

**Family Law Facilitator's Self-Help Centers** - These centers are designed to help people representing themselves in Family Law matters by explaining court processes and assisting with document preparation. Several services are available including help in choosing and completing forms for Family Support actions; education in group clinics or workshops; and information on a variety of family law related court matters.

**Civil Harassment Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) Clinics** - These clinics assist participants by explaining the court processes and helping with document preparation.

**Unlawful Detainer Clinics** - These clinics help customers prepare Landlord-Tenant documents and related requests for assistance.

**Conservatorship Clinic** - This clinic includes assistance with legal document preparation and preparation for court hearings relating to appointment of someone to care for a person who cannot care for himself or herself.

**Guardianship Clinic** - This clinic includes assistance with legal document preparation and preparation for court hearings relating to caring for minors.

### INFORMATION BROCHURES

The Superior Court has developed a series of brochures subtitled "Answers to Frequently Asked Questions," which are available at the appropriate court business offices. Brochure topics include:

- Appeals
- Civil Cases/Casos Civil
- Criminal Cases/Casos Penales
- Family Law Cases/Casos de Derecho Familiar
- Minor Offenses: General Information/Infracciones Información General
- Minor Offenses: Insurance Violations/Infracciones Al Código Vehicular
- Small Claims Court/Tribunal de Demandas Menores
- Unlawful Detainers/Unlawful Detainers Retención Ilegal



## WEBSITES

There are numerous websites available to help guide people through California's trial court system. Some helpful websites include:

San Diego Superior Court Website  
<http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov>

Great care has been taken during the design of the San Diego Superior Court website to ensure that it is user-friendly and contains information that will be a vehicle to open access to the courts for all members of the community, especially those seeking to "go it alone" in court as self-represented litigants.

On the website there are explanatory sections for each case type, printable forms, and links to valuable resources, some of which are listed below. If you do not have access to a computer in your home, most public libraries and the San Diego County Public Law Library (<http://www.sdcll.org>) provide computers with internet access to the public.

## CALIFORNIA SELF-HELP CENTER

(Available in English and Spanish)

<http://www.legalselfhelp.ca.gov>

This government website provides online assistance and information to help you work better with an attorney and/or represent yourself in some legal matters.

## LAWHELPCALIFORNIA.ORG

(Available in various languages)

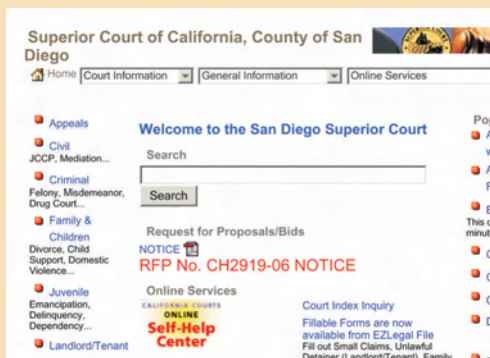
<http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org>

LawHelpCalifornia.org provides low-income Californians with easy online access to basic legal resources and attorney information such as how to locate an attorney or advocacy group based on a specific issue of law.

## COURT AND JUDICIAL COUNCIL FORMS

Getting court forms is easy. Pick up forms at the nearest court location OR visit the court website at [www.sdcourt.ca.gov](http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov).

When visiting the website, one can either print forms directly, link to the Judicial Council website where one can browse forms from a pull-down menu, or link to the EZLegalFile interactive program where one can complete forms by responding to basic questions online. The website will automatically fill in portions of the form based upon your responses. Note: EZLegalFile is limited to the following case types: Domestic Violence, Small Claims, Unlawful Detainer (Landlord/Tenant), Family Law and Guardianship.





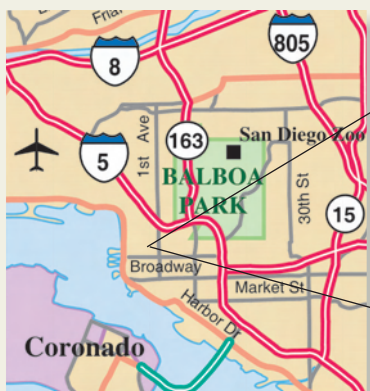
## LOCATIONS AND COURT SERVICES

Where you go for court services may depend on one or more of the following considerations:

- Where you live (for example, which court area or jurisdiction in which you live)
- Where the legal issue occurred (for example, in which court area or jurisdiction it happened)
- Where the court provides the services you need  
(for example, juvenile delinquency matters are heard only in the Central Division).

Here are the locations of your court facilities and the services each location provides:

### CENTRAL DIVISION GENERAL INFORMATION (619) 531-4420



#### HALL OF JUSTICE:

330 West Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101

Appeals - Limited Civil  
Civil - Limited and Unlimited Civil  
(including Unlawful Detainers)  
Jury Services  
Personnel



#### COUNTY COURTHOUSE:

220 West Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101

Appeals - Unlimited Jurisdiction  
Criminal - Felonies and Misdemeanors  
Family Law Facilitator  
Family Support Division  
Court Reporting Services - Transcripts  
Older Court Records - Records Research



#### FAMILY COURT:

1501-55 Sixth Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101

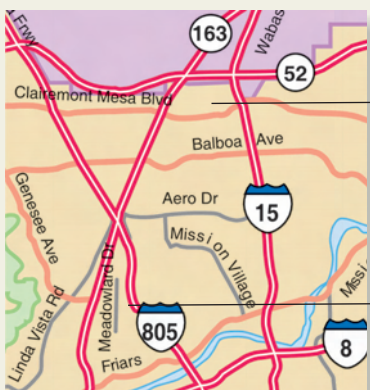
Family Law: Dissolution (Divorce),  
Domestic Violence Restraining Orders,  
Child Custody and Support  
Family Law Facilitator  
Family Court Services (e.g., Mediators)



#### MADGE BRADLEY BUILDING:

1409 Fourth Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101

Domestic Violence Restraining Orders  
Probate, Guardianships, and Conservatorships  
Trusts and Delayed Registration of Birth,  
Death and Marriage.



#### KEARNY MESA TRAFFIC COURT:

8950 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., San Diego, CA 92123

Small Claims  
Small Claims Legal Advisor  
Traffic and other Infractions and  
Juvenile Vehicle Code Infractions



#### JUVENILE COURT:

2851 Meadowlark Drive, San Diego, CA 92123

Adoptions and Emancipations  
Juvenile Delinquency  
Juvenile Dependency

**CENTRAL DIVISION SELF-HELP SERVICES**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE NUMBERS BELOW:**

**Child/Family Support . . . . . (619) 515-8849**

**Central Courthouse, 220 West Broadway, Room 4001, San Diego, CA 92101**

Family Law Facilitator - Operated by the Superior Court using attorneys and paralegals, this program assists self-represented litigants. Open Monday-Friday on a first-come, first-served basis at no cost.

**Civil Harassment Restraining Order Clinic . . . . . (877) 534-2524**

**Hall of Justice, 330 West Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101**

Operated by Legal Aid Society of San Diego, this clinic offers assistance to self-represented litigants by explaining procedures and helping them to prepare forms.

**Conservatorship/Guardianship Clinic . . . . . (619) 687-2000**

**Madge Bradley Courthouse, 1409 Fourth Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101**

Operated by Legal Aid Society of San Diego, this clinic offers assistance to self-represented litigants to explain procedures and help them to prepare forms.

**Domestic Violence Restraining Order Clinic . . . . . (619) 687-2292**

**Madge Bradley Courthouse, 1409 Fourth Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101**

Operated by San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, this clinic offers assistance to self-represented litigants to explain procedures and prepare forms.

**Family Law Assistance . . . . . (619) 531-3234**

**Family Court Building, 1555 Sixth Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101**

Family Law Facilitator - Operated by the Superior Court using attorneys and paralegals, this program provides information and assistance, but not representation, in the areas of divorce, paternity, support issues, child custody & visitation, and domestic violence temporary restraining orders (with an existing family law case). Open Monday-Friday on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Parent Orientation Classes . . . . . (619) 236-2681**

**Family Court Bldg., 1555 Sixth Avenue, Second Floor, San Diego, CA 92101**

Family Court Services (FCS) provides a Parent Orientation meeting, giving information regarding child custody and Family Court matters. This meeting is facilitated by an FCS Counselor.

**Small Claims Legal Advisor . . . . . (619) 236-2471**

**Kearny Mesa Branch, 8950 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., San Diego, CA 92123**

San Diego Superior Court provides a Small Claims Legal Advisor at no cost. The advisor is an attorney, paralegal or law student and is available to assist with small claims issues and procedures from filing through enforcement. This service is available Monday - Friday. The advisor helps litigants with cases on a walk-in basis only, no appointment is necessary. A small claims telephone advisory service is also available.

**Small Claims Mediation . . . . . (619) 238-2400**

**National Conflict Resolution Center**

Under contract with the County of San Diego, this program uses trained mediators to help litigants reach mutually agreed upon settlements. This program has an office at 625 Broadway, Suite 1221, San Diego, CA 92101.

**Unlawful Detainer Clinic . . . . . (877) 534-2524**

**Landlord-Tenant Disputes**

**Hall of Justice, 330 West Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101**

Operated by Legal Aid Society of San Diego, this clinic offers assistance to self-represented litigants to explain landlord-tenant procedures and prepare forms.

*Some programs listed are not affiliated with San Diego Superior Court. Each program is independently responsible for compliance with applicable state or federal laws. The Superior Court does not endorse, evaluate, supervise, or monitor these programs.*



## **EAST COUNTY DIVISION GENERAL INFORMATION (619) 441-4100**

**East County Regional Center: 250 East Main Street, El Cajon, CA 92020**

Civil Limited and Unlimited Civil

(including Unlawful Detainers & Civil Harassment Orders)

Criminal Felonies, Misdemeanors and Infractions

Family Court Services (e.g., Mediators)

Family Law Dissolution (Divorce), Domestic Violence Restraining Orders,

Child Custody and Support

Family Law Facilitator

Jury Services

Juvenile Dependency

Small Claims, Small Claims Legal Advisor

Traffic including Juvenile Vehicle Code Infractions

## **EAST COUNTY DIVISION SELF-HELP SERVICES**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE NUMBERS BELOW:**

**Civil Harassment Restraining Order Clinic . . . . . (619) 441-4461**

**East County Courthouse, 250 East Main Street, El Cajon, CA 92020**

Operated by Legal Aid Society of San Diego, this clinic offers assistance to self-represented litigants to explain procedures and help them to prepare forms.

**Domestic Violence Restraining Order Clinic . . . . . (619) 441-4100**

**East County Courthouse, 250 East Main Street, El Cajon, CA 92020**

Operated by San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program and Center for Community Solutions, this clinic helps self-represented litigants by explaining procedures and preparing forms.

**Family Law Assistance . . . . . (619) 531-3234**

East County Courthouse, 250 East Main Street, El Cajon, CA 92020

Family Law Facilitator - Operated by San Diego Superior Court using attorneys and paralegals, this program provides information and assistance, but not representation, in the areas of divorce, paternity, support issues, child custody and visitation.

**Small Claims Legal Advisor . . . . . (619) 236-2471**

East County Courthouse, 250 East Main Street, El Cajon, CA 92020

San Diego Superior Court provides a Small Claims Legal Advisor at no cost. The advisor is an attorney, paralegal or law student and is available to assist with small claims issues and procedures from filing through enforcement. This service is available Monday - Friday. The advisor helps litigants with cases on a walk-in basis only, no appointment is necessary. A small claims telephone advisory service is also available.

**Small Claims Mediation . . . . . (619) 593-4530**

National Conflict Resolution Center

Under contract with the County of San Diego, this program uses trained mediators to help litigants reach mutually agreed upon settlements. This program has an office at 181 Rea Avenue, Suite 101, El Cajon, CA 92020.

**Unlawful Detainer Clinic . . . . . (619) 441-6770 (press option 4)**

Landlord - Tenant Disputes

East County Courthouse, 250 East Main Street, El Cajon, CA 92020

Operated by Legal Aid Society of San Diego, this clinic offers assistance to self-represented litigants to explain landlord-tenant procedures and help them to prepare forms.

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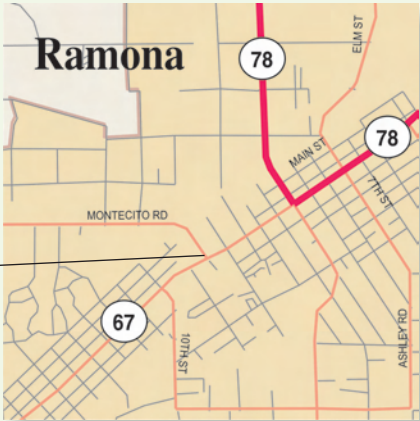
**ALSO IN THE EAST COUNTY DIVISION**

**RAMONA BRANCH**

1428 Montecito Road, Ramona, CA 92065

(760) 738-2400

Civil Unlawful Detainers and Small Claims  
Juvenile Traffic Infractions  
Minor Offense Infractions, including Traffic







**North County Division: General Information (760) 726-9595**

**Vista Regional Center: 325 South Melrose Drive, Vista, CA 92081**

Civil Limited and Unlimited Civil (including Unlawful Detainers)

Criminal Felonies, Misdemeanors and Infractions

Family Court Services (e.g., Mediators)

Family Law Dissolution (Divorce), Domestic Violence Restraining Orders, Child Custody and Support

Family Law Facilitator

Jury Services

Juvenile Dependency

Probate, Guardianships and Conservatorships

Small Claims, Small Claims Legal Advisor

Traffic including Juvenile Vehicle Code Infractions

**NORTH COUNTY SELF-HELP SERVICES**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE NUMBERS BELOW:**

**Child Support . . . . . (760) 940-4952**

**North County Courthouse, 325 South Melrose Drive, Vista, CA 92081**

Family Law Facilitator - operated by the Superior Court using attorneys and paralegals, offers assistance to self-represented litigants by explaining court processes in the areas of divorce, paternity, child support, child custody and visitation issues.

**Civil Harassment Restraining Order Clinic . . . . . (760) 726-9595**

**North County Courthouse, 325 South Melrose Drive, CA 92081**

Operated by San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, this clinic offers assistance to self-represented litigants to explain procedures and prepare forms.



**Domestic Violence Restraining Order Clinic . . . . . (760) 726-9595**  
North County Courthouse, 325 South Melrose Drive, Vista, CA 92081

Operated by San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, this clinic offers assistance to self-represented litigants to explain procedures and help them to prepare forms.

**Family Law Assistance. . . . . (760) 940-4952**  
North County Courthouse, 325 South Melrose Drive, Vista, CA 92081

Family Law Facilitator - Operated by San Diego Superior Court using attorneys and paralegals, this program provides information and assistance, but not representation, in the areas of divorce, paternity, support issues, child custody/visitation, and domestic violence temporary restraining orders. Open Monday-Friday on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Small Claims Legal Advisor . . . . . (619) 236-2471**  
North County Courthouse, 325 South Melrose Drive, Vista, CA 92081

San Diego Superior Court provides a Small Claims Legal Advisor at no cost. The advisor is an attorney, paralegal or law student and is available to assist with small claims issues and procedures from filing through enforcement. This service is available Monday - Friday. The advisor helps litigants with cases on a walk-in basis only, no appointment is necessary. A small claims telephone advisory service is also available.

**Small Claims Mediation . . . . . (760) 726-4900**  
North County Lifeline, Inc.

Under contract with the County of San Diego, this program uses trained mediators to help litigants reach mutually agreed upon settlements. This program has an office at 200 Michigan Avenue, Vista, CA 92084.

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### **General Information . . . . . (619) 691-4726**

**South Bay Regional Center: 500 Third Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910**

Civil Limited and Unlimited Civil (including Unlawful Detainers)

Criminal Felonies, Misdemeanors and Infractions

Family Court Services (e.g., Mediators)

Family Law Dissolution (Divorce), Domestic Violence Restraining Orders, Child Custody and Support

Family Law Facilitator

Jury Services

Juvenile Dependency

Juvenile Delinquency (truancy only)

Small Claims, Small Claims Legal Advisor

Traffic including Juvenile Vehicle Code Infractions

### **SOUTH COUNTY SELF-HELP**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE NUMBERS BELOW:**

**Civil Harassment Restraining Order Clinic . . . . . (619) 691-4439**

**South County Courthouse, 500 Third Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910**

Operated by Legal Aid Society of San Diego, this clinic offers assistance to self-represented litigants to explain procedures and prepare forms.

**Domestic Violence Restraining Order Clinic . . . . . (619) 691-4875**

**South County Courthouse, 500 Third Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910**

Operated by Legal Aid Society of San Diego, this clinic offers assistance to self-represented litigants to explain procedures and prepare forms.

**Family Law Assistance . . . . . (619) 531-3234**

**500 Third Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910**

Family Law Facilitator - Operated by San Diego Superior Court using attorneys and paralegals, this program provides information and assistance, but not representation, in the areas of divorce, paternity, support issues, child custody/visitation. Open Monday-Friday on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Parent Education Classes . . . . . (619) 388-3400**

San Diego Community College District, in collaboration with the San Diego Superior Court, offers parent education classes on a voluntary or court-ordered basis. Subjects include: communication, extended family, discipline, and grandparent/stepparent relationships. There is no cost and a certificate of participation is given upon completion. Call for class schedule and nearest location. [www.sdce.edu](http://www.sdce.edu)

**Small Claims Legal Advisor . . . . . (619) 236-2471**

**South County Courthouse, 500 Third Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910**

San Diego Superior Court provides a Small Claims Legal Advisor at no cost. The advisor is an attorney, paralegal or law student and is available to assist with small claims issues and procedures from filing through enforcement. This service is available Monday - Friday. The advisor helps litigants with cases on a walk-in basis only, no appointment is necessary. A small claims telephone advisory service is also available.

**Small Claims Mediation . . . . . (619) 428-3200**

**National Conflict Resolution Center**

Under contract with the County of San Diego, this program uses trained mediators to help litigants reach mutually agreed upon settlements. This program has an office at 663 East San Ysidro Blvd., San Ysidro, CA 92173.

**Unlawful Detainer Clinic . . . . . (619) 691-4439**

**Landlord - Tenant Dispute**

**South County Courthouse, 500 Third Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910**

Operated by Legal Aid Society of San Diego, this clinic offers assistance to self-represented litigants to explain landlord-tenant procedures and prepare forms.

*Some programs listed are not affiliated with San Diego Superior Court. Each program is independently responsible for compliance with applicable state or federal laws. The Superior Court does not endorse, evaluate, supervise, or monitor these programs.*





The Superior Court of California, County of San Diego places great importance on community outreach and education. The court provides opportunities for the public to see the court in action by providing guided tours and opportunities to observe actual court hearings in progress. All judges and staff are committed to informing the public about the workings of our court and the California judicial branch.

## VOLUNTEERS

In 2006, more than 750 community volunteers, student interns, and temporary judges donated more than 36,000 hours of service to the Superior Court. Their dedication, time and talents helped to enhance court operations in virtually every area of the court, including:

- Caring for children in the children's waiting rooms;**
- Assisting the public at information desks;**
- Conducting courthouse tours for school-aged children;**
- Working in business offices;**
- Assisting new jurors during orientation;**
- Helping unrepresented litigants with family law matters;**
- Working on special projects;**
- Presiding over certain types of cases such as small claims and traffic matters as Temporary Judges.**



## STUDENT OUTREACH

From courthouse tours to the "Justice 101" program to special events during Law Week, students in San Diego County have a unique opportunity to experience the California justice system firsthand. Court programs offer an inside look into how the court is structured, how jury trials are conducted, and how making wrong choices can impact young lives.



**Students participating in Student Outreach and Education Program 2005/2006**

4,680 Students  
75 Schools

## JUSTICE 101

Justice 101 is an educational program that provides high school seniors a unique look at the San Diego Superior Court system with an emphasis on the real impact of making poor choices. The program was developed to enhance American Government courses and give high school seniors the opportunity to experience the justice system first hand. The program includes a candid and interactive presentation by a Superior Court judge, visiting courtrooms to observe actual court proceedings, and a question and answer session with a court official and Deputy Sheriff.

## LAW WEEK

In 1961, the first day of May was set aside by a joint resolution of Congress as "Law Day USA," an occasion for Americans to celebrate their liberties and explore the ideals of





equality and justice under the law. Since then, Law Day has evolved into Law Week. The Superior Court offers a variety of activities and programs in conjunction with Law Week designed to educate school-aged children about the justice system.



#### **Law Week 2006 participation**

**1,493 Students**

**28 Schools**

In addition, during Law Week the San Diego Superior Court and the San Diego County Public Law Library collaborate to provide “Legal Resource Knowledge Fairs” at each court division. The Fairs feature information about various court programs, the Law Library, San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, Legal Aid Society, and other non-profit legal groups that provided legal resources and services to the public.

### **ON MY HONOR**

On My Honor is a complete educational experience for both elementary and middle school students. It was originally conceived and implemented by the North County Division of the court, and has expanded to other divisions. The program, which received a 2002 Ralph N. Kleps Award from the Judicial Council, includes a class curriculum, teacher's guide, lesson plans and activities. It also includes a visit to the court and participation in a mock trial. During the mock trial, which is presided over by a judge, every student joins in as counsel, jury member, court reporter, or defendant. The program has taught thousands of young people about the legal system, the courts, and the administration of justice.

### **CHILDREN'S WAITING ROOM**

The Children's Waiting Room is a form of community outreach: the waiting rooms, which can be found at seven court locations in the Central, East, North and South County Division courthouses, provide a safe place for children while parents or guardians testify or attend court proceedings. The waiting rooms allow a segment of the community to utilize the court without leaving children in courthouse hallways where heavy foot traffic, sight of prisoners in jailhouse garb and the emotionally charged atmosphere can be frightening for small children. The waiting rooms provide the children with a safer, more nurturing alternative to the hallway. Child-sized furniture, toys, games and playmates all contribute to an oasis of calm.



**14,884 Children utilized  
the Children's Waiting Rooms in 2006**

### **WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE COURT?**

Judges and court staff are available to meet with school groups and community organizations to talk about how the court works and the challenges and opportunities facing the California justice system.

Would you like to schedule a courthouse tour or speaker for your organization?  
Tours: (619) 531-3489 — Student Outreach and Education Program  
Speakers: (619) 531-4484 — Public Affairs Office

## COLLABORATIVE AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

When one thinks about the courts and justice, visions of a jury and a judge sentencing a defendant to jail or prison materialize. But that is not always the case. In certain situations, offenders may be eligible to participate in what are called “collaborative” or “restorative” justice courts.

Collaborative justice courts are also known as “problem-solving courts” because they promote accountability to the community by combining judicial supervision with treatment and other rehabilitation services that are rigorously monitored and focused on recovery. Restorative justice courts also promote accountability by requiring offenders to make restitution to the community through work assignments in the local area where the crime was committed. Funding for these programs comes from a variety of federal, state, and local sources.

“Collaborative justice courts, focusing on less serious drug offenses, mental health, domestic violence, and juvenile matters, have been remarkably successful at turning around lives . . . They change the offender for the better . . .”

**Ronald M. George,**  
Chief Justice, California State Supreme Court



## SAN DIEGO HAS NUMEROUS COLLABORATIVE AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE COURT PROGRAMS



### ADULT DRUG COURT:

Adult Drug Court operates in each of the four divisions of the Superior Court in San Diego County, and is a collaboration between the court and the County’s Health and Human Services Agency, District Attorney, Public Defender, law enforcement, and the treatment community. This minimum 18-month program includes intensive judicial supervision, drug treatment counseling, educational and vocational training opportunities, frequent random drug testing, and the use of court-imposed sanctions and incentives. Eligible offenders are those charged with non-violent felony cases

where the underlying cause of the criminality is substance abuse.

### DEPENDENCY COURT RECOVERY PROGRAM:

Parents entering the dependency system (i.e., whose children have been legally removed from the home), and who require alcohol and drug treatment services, receive a timely and thorough alcohol and drug assessment, focused treatment, case management, and follow up. This program, created in the late 1990s, is a collaboration between the court and the County’s Health and Human Services Agency, District Attorney, Public Defender, Alternate Public Defender, County Counsel, and the treatment community. By providing targeted and effective alcohol and drug treatment services, the opportunity for recovery, family reunification and improved long-term outcomes is maximized.

For parents who are not able to meet court-ordered treatment goals, a specialized Dependency Drug Court provides more intensive substance abuse treatment and monitoring, random drug testing and increased judicial oversight in a therapeutic court setting. The program provides another tool for alcohol and drug-abusing parents who want to live a drug-free life to address their substance abuse problem, improve their ability to parent, and reunify with their children.

#### **DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY COURT:**

The Downtown Community Court Program was developed as a collaboration between the Downtown San Diego Partnership and justice system agencies to address misdemeanor and infraction quality-of-life crimes (e.g., disturbing the peace and graffiti) occurring in the downtown San Diego area. The purpose of the program is to reduce the number of quality-of-life crimes committed in the designated area by requiring offenders to perform work service and make restitution to the downtown community, while offering them dismissal of their cases after successful completion of probation terms.



#### **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REVIEW COURT:**

Misdemeanor Domestic Violence offenders are sentenced to attend the mandatory 52-week Domestic Violence Recovery Program and are scheduled for periodic progress review hearings before a Judge on this dedicated calendar in each of the four court divisions.

#### **HOMELESS COURT:**



Created by the Public Defender's Office in 1989 as the first Homeless Court in the nation, San Diego's program is aimed at a segment of the population that typically has no means for making reparations to the criminal justice system for misdemeanor criminal conduct. Homeless Court offers individuals an opportunity to resolve their outstanding criminal cases by participating in treatment programs rather than paying fines and/or serving time in jail. San Diego's Homeless Court program is convened once each month at either St. Vincent de Paul

Village or Veterans' Village of San Diego. Homeless Court is also provided in the North County. The program is convened once a month at either Brother Benno's Center in Oceanside or the Vietnam Veterans' facility in Escondido.

#### **JUVENILE DELINQUENCY DRUG COURT:**

The Juvenile Delinquency Drug Court program is designed to assist juveniles who have repeatedly been non-compliant in drug treatment, and who therefore need increased monitoring and supervision by the court. The Juvenile Drug Court is a collaborative program of the court, the County's Health and Human Services Agency, Probation, District Attorney, Public Defender, law enforcement, and the treatment community. Only non-violent juvenile offenders who are not in custody and who also have drug treatment as a condition of probation are eligible.

**MID-CITY COMMUNITY COURT:**

Created by the San Diego City Attorney's Office in 2003, the Mid-City Community Court focuses on misdemeanor quality-of-life crimes, including prostitution, marijuana possession, disturbing the peace, and graffiti in the Mid-City area of San Diego. Rather than having their criminal complaints filed with the court by the City Attorney, eligible offenders are sanctioned by a panel which includes community members. Offenders are ordered to perform community work service, attend rehabilitative and educational programs, and pay fines and fees.

**OPERATION STAND DOWN COURT:**

This is an annual event sponsored by the Veterans' Village of San Diego. In addition to a resource fair for homeless veterans, judges hold a court session at the event venue to adjudicate criminal infractions and minor misdemeanors for veterans who have outstanding cases. This event gives veterans an opportunity to dispose of minor offense citations and warrants on adjudicated cases without the fear of going to jail.

**PROPOSITION 36 REVIEW COURT:**

Beginning in 2001 after the statewide passage of Proposition 36, eligible misdemeanor and felony offenders who are convicted of Penal Code 1210 drug offenses are placed on formal probation supervision and receive drug treatment and testing services. They are also scheduled for periodic review hearings before a judicial officer on this dedicated calendar in each of the four court divisions.

**QUESTIONS ABOUT COLLABORATIVE COURTS?**

If you would like more information on any of the Collaborative Courts, please call the Public Affairs Office at (619) 531-4484.



# 2007

**Presiding Judge**  
**Judge Janis Sammartino**

**Assistant Presiding Judge**  
**Judge Kenneth K. So**



## **SUPERIOR COURT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Judge Marguerite L. Wagner**  
**Judge Herbert J. Exarhos**  
**Judge Susan D. Huguenor**  
**Judge David B. Oberholtzer**  
**Judge Robert J. Trentacosta**  
**Judge Lisa Guy-Schall**  
**Judge Michael D. Wellington**  
**Judge Harry M. Elias**

**Judge Jeffrey F. Fraser**  
**Judge Jacqueline M. Stern**  
**Judge Michael M. Anello**  
**Judge Margie G. Woods**  
**Judge Linda B. Quinn**  
**Judge Kevin A. Enright**  
**Judge John S. Einhorn (Ex Officio)**



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
County of San Diego

220 West Broadway  
San Diego, California 92101-3814

(619) 531-4484

website: [www.sdcourt.ca.gov](http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov)